at all prepared to say, that the whole of this species or even any individual plant of the species is entirely so. It is a very rare thing for a plant to bear cleistogamous flowers only. There are generally some few opening and exposing themselves to cross-fertilisation in the usual way, as though nature in any case were loth to depend entirely on self-fertilisation.

Temperature of the body of Echidna Hystrix Cuv.

By N. de Miklouho Maclay.

During my stay in Brisbane in July 1879, I had an opportunity of getting two *Echidna hystrix* for the study of the brain. I kept them for several weeks before I had time to begin the anatomical dissection, and they enjoyed the most perfect health, appearing very sleepy during the day, but more active during the night, and leaving a soup plate of milk thickened with some flour quite empty in the mornings. Being at last ready to examine the brain of one of them, and before injecting a dose of hydr. chlor., I took the opportunity of observing the temperature of the body of the animal. A very sensitive thermometer, placed in the cloaca, after lying there undisturbed for ten minutes showed the temperature of 28° 3 C. (about 83° F.)

Believing that the large opening of the cloaca had interfered with the correctness of the observations, I made a small incision, just large enough to introduce the oblong ball of the thermometer into the cavity of the abdomen. The thermometer was left there over ten minutes and showed a temperature of 30° 0 C. (86° 0 F.)

Not satisfied with this observation, and finding that the observed temperature of the Echidna is much below the known average temperature of the body of Mammalia, I repeated the observation on the other specimen. The second observation was made the 9th July. The temperature of the air that day was 20° 0 C. (68° 0 F.) I made again a small incision, and observed the temperature, in this incision and in the abdominal cavity.

I found the temperature (the thermometer lying in the cavity for over ten minutes) 26° 95 C. (about 80° F.) To be quite sure, and to prevent any mistakes, I introduced again the thermometer into the abdominal cavity in half-an-hour's time, and let it remain there for over fifteen minutes.

The very sensitive thermometer (made for observation of temperature of the human body on the sickbed) showed again the temperature of 26° 65 C. (about 79° F.) Wishing to be quite sure about the observations, I induced Mr. R. T. Steiger, the Government Analytical Chemist in Brisbane, to place his thermometer in the cavity, and we obtained there with this other thermometer a temperature of 78° F., (or 25° 5 C.), which result agreed very nearly with the previous observations.

Taking the average of these three observations, we find the mean temperature of the body of the *Echidna hystrix* to be about 28° C. (or, 82° 4 F.)

Comparing the same with the mean temperature of Mammalia, which is, after Dr. J. Davy's observations of thirty-one different species, 38° 4 C., or 101° 10 F., we find that the mean temperature of the Echidna is about 10° C., or 19° F., lower than the former.

I have to add that in the month of July the Echidnas appeared to be in a very sleepy state, moving about in the day time only when disturbed. It is possible that during the winter months the Echidna is subject to a state of hibernation, which may also to a certain extent depress the usual temperature of the body.

Plagiostomata of the Pacific.

By N. de Miklouho Maclay and William Macleay. Part 2.

Plate xx.

It is now exactly five years since we read a Paper with the above heading at a meeting of this Society, and which was published in the third volume of our Proceedings.